Dear TCFS and Texas AAUP,

Thank you for hosting me last month. You can find here **my slides** and the **list of Koch funded Texas universities between 2005-2016**. Other resources can be found at unkochmycampus.org, and I can be reached at ralph@unkochmycampus.org

At campuses like **Western Carolina University**, **Wake Forest University**, **Montana State**, and elsewhere, faculty have used their senates to investigate the state of donor influence, including but not limited to the circumstances surrounding Koch and their partner donors. They have also used their findings and the findings of other faculty around the country to audit and strengthen their campus donor policies. On our website, you can find our collections of academic freedom violations, Koch foundation primary documents, and faculty work around donor influence.

It is worth mentioning that my colleague and co-founder of UnKoch, Samantha Parsons, will be shortly releasing model donor policy language that we've been developing with the help of the AAUP. The problems that we've outlined regarding donor policy extend well beyond Koch, and many campuses have used Koch as an opportunity to review more broadly their campus' donor policies to ensure they don't allow infringement on faculty governance and academic freedom.

You can read an investigative piece we helped regarding Texas Tech that dealt with Koch as well as the Templeton foundation (Texas Observer). Also, see the recent piece we worked on with the Texas Tribune.

While faculty senates do not always have the authority necessary to weigh in on critical campus issues, this issue is one that is completely in the purview of a senate. Please consider looking deeper on your campus, and possibly taking action. Additionally, we would love to assist the Texas AAUP and TCFS in taking action on the state level, if y'all were so inclined.

Please keep in touch.
Ralph

Find below some preliminary information I pulled together on Koch at Texas campuses

Texas Tech

Free Market Institute (Texas Observer)

Templeton $1.7 million to Adam West for Austrian Economics

University of Dallas:

$1.09 million Classical Education Graduate Program for K-12 teachers [Oct 2018], [MOU]

University of Texas - Austin

2014: Center for Politics and Governance
From our 2016 recordings, a Koch foundation official described "that project is about $19 million dollars to hire eight new faculty members in six different academic departments. The idea being that the Center can be a certain kind of thought leader in three areas: what he calls 'the war on young,' by which he means entitlement reform, corporate welfare, and then innovation and technology, which works well in the Austin area. We think we can have an impact at the national level."

Texas A&M:

2018: Center for Grand Strategy [Press Release] [MOU]
The support will enable the university to hire a professor of practice and new tenure-track faculty. The center will also host pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows; sponsor research by affiliated faculty; and host conferences, workshops and speakers to disseminate cutting-edge research that contributes to a robust debate about U.S. grand strategy.

2017: School of Law Criminal Justice Scholars and Advocates course [Press]
Professor Lisa A. Rich received the grant to develop and teach this spring the course. Funds were used to support student policy research and travel, including to the American Bar Association's 31st Annual White Collar Crime Conference. Rich began her career as an adjunct professor at George Mason University School of Law.

2017: Mays Innovation Research Center (MIRC), Mays Business School []
"the center will provide research support to existing faculty across the university; support new faculty in engineering, business, liberal arts and other academic disciplines; fund Ph.D. fellowship and undergraduate research opportunities; and award prizes for outstanding research that advances the center's mission."

2017 - The Texas A&M Foundation received a grant from the Charles Koch Foundation for $3.405 million to support the Private Enterprise Research Center (PERC) at Texas A&M University. . . **provides a broad range of academic support for scholars at Texas A&M and market-oriented solutions to public policy problems.**

Although PERC works closely with the Department of Economics, it is housed in the Allen Building on the Bush School of Government and Public Service campus, where it operates as its own unit under the Office of the Provost. Therefore, the center receives its funding via private gifts and grants from former students, foundations and corporations.

“Through its public policy studies and academic support, PERC provides timely and rigorous research on contemporary issues that enhances the scholarly mission of Texas A&M,” said Dr. Dennis W. Jansen, the center’s director and the Jordan Professor of Economic Policy. “Our policy research focuses on the scientific application of economics to national issues. We believe that through objective analysis of the issues, we can enhance economic freedom throughout the world.”

Researchers have studied how Medicare and Social Security are financed and modeled, investigated the health care market and evaluated government spending. PERC has produced three books and numerous articles on Medicare and Social Security reforms, some of which have been highlighted in national publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes and The New York Times. Current research focuses on the distribution of Medicare spending across and within generations, as well as issues with retirement, health care markets and government finance.

The center supports academic research through its Research Fellows program, Graduate Student Summer Fellows and Dissertation Fellows programs and professorships. It also hosts an Applied Economics Seminar Series, which invites visiting scholars from around the world to speak on topics ranging from immigration to increasing wage disparity.

“By allowing us to hire additional postdoctoral, graduate and undergraduate students, this grant from the Charles Koch Foundation provides us the support needed to strengthen our existing research programs and expand our focus to include more work on issues ranging from school choice to fiscal and monetary policy,” said Jansen.
The Charles Koch Foundation’s generous gift counts toward Texas A&M’s comprehensive “Lead by Example” campaign, an endeavor to raise $4 billion by 2020 in support of university staff, faculty and programs.